Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

28 March 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

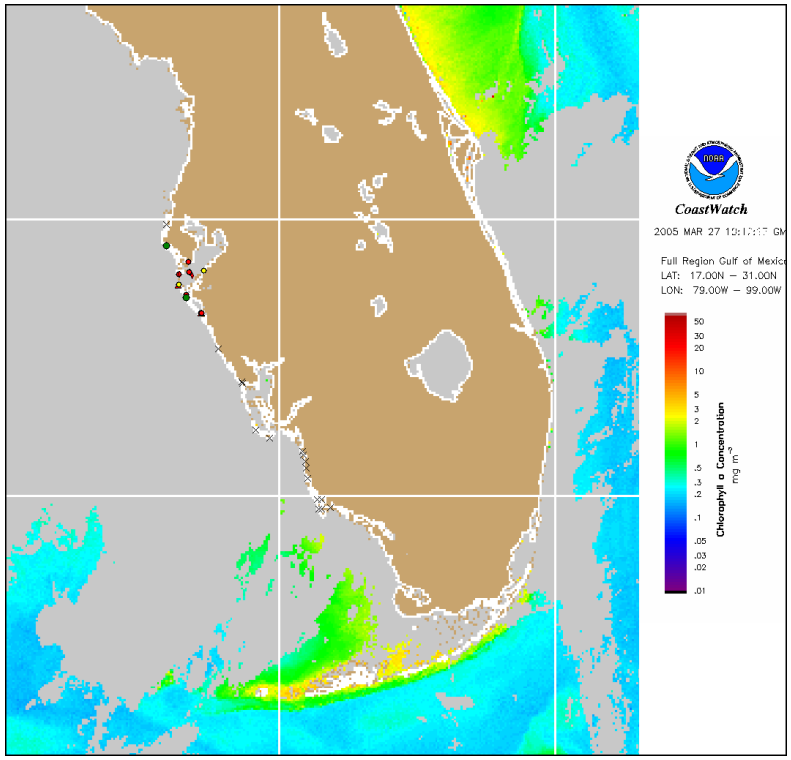
Last bulletin: March 24, 2005

Conditions: A harmful algal bloom has been identified onshore from southern Pinellas to Sarasota Counties. Patchy very low to low impacts in southern Pinellas and Manatee Counties, and very low to moderate impacts in Sarasota County are possible today and Wednesday night into Thursday. No impacts expected Tuesday or Wednesday.

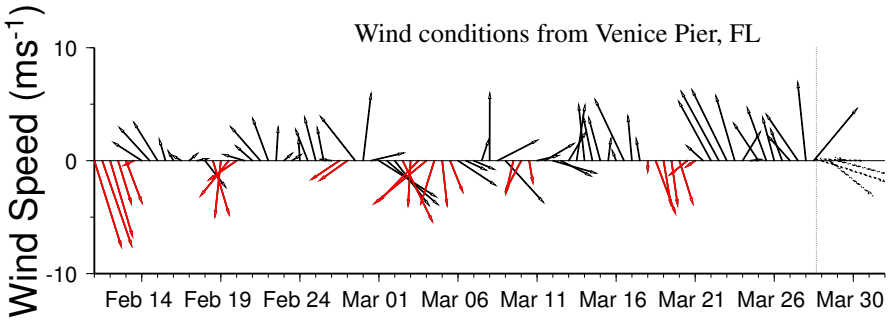
Analysis: A harmful algal bloom persists from southern Pinellas to Sarasota Counties. Exact extents cannot be determined due to several days of cloudy imagery. Although no respiratory irritation reports were received, dead fish and two pelicans were reported in lower Tampa Bay and additional dead fish offshore of Fort Myers last week. Manatee mortalities have increased to 41, however there is still no confirmation that *K. brevis* is related to these events. FWRI identified low concentrations of *K. brevis* in the lower Tampa Bay region, very low concentrations in Manatee County, and continued low to medium concentrations at New Pass March 21-25. No *K. brevis* was found south of Sarasota County. Onshore impacts are possible today and Wednesday night into Thursday. Slight southerly movement is possible through Tuesday; however further intensification is unlikely and the bloom's extent should be maintained through Thursday.

Keys: Present imagery does not indicate the presence of a bloom in the vicinity of the March 14 medium concentration found north of No Name Key. Further sampling is needed. Conditions since the day of sampling have favored northward movement of algae.

~Fisher & Bronder

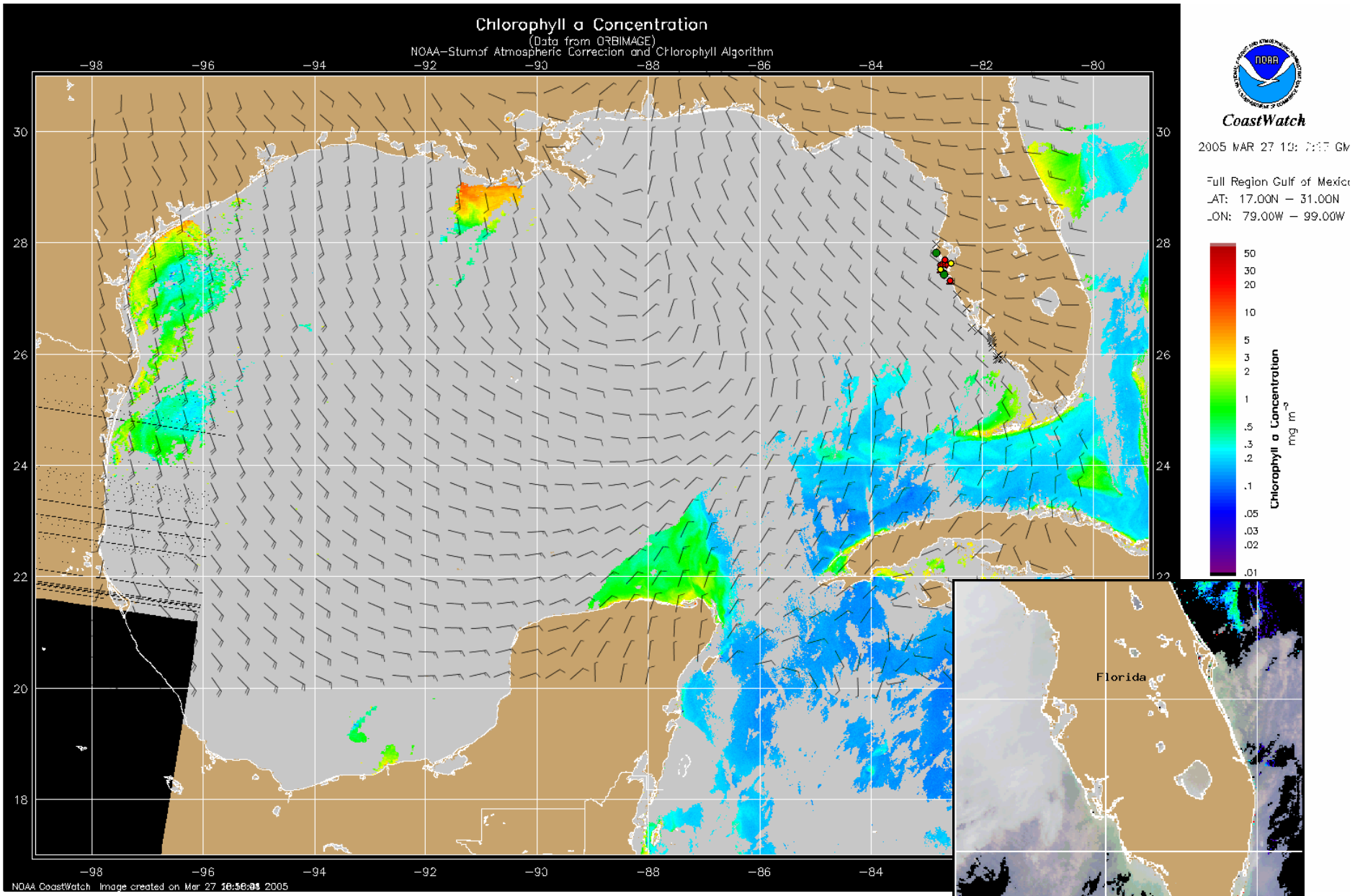


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 23, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Strong westerlies (20-25kts, 10-13m/s) today will weaken to 10kts (5m/s) and turn northwesterly Tuesday, becoming 5knot (3m/s) northerly winds Tuesday night. Mild southeasterly winds will become onshore Wednesday. Wednesday night expect variable winds to turn southeasterly and strengthen to 10kts (5m/s). Southwesterlies at 10kts (5m/s) expected Thursday.



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for March 29, 2005 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from March 23, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis and image for interpretation)

Wind conditions from Sand Key, FL